

VACIHCS Pharmacy Residency Program Preceptor Biographies

Sarah Babb, PharmD, BCPP

Sarah Babb PharmD, BCPP is a clinical pharmacy specialist in mental health. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University in 2001. Dr. Babb is a member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists. She serves as a clinical preceptor for students from Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Her primary areas of practice include acute psychiatry and long term care.

Megan Barajas, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCOP

Dr. Barajas is a clinical pharmacy specialist and works in the Hematology/Oncology department. Dr. Barajas earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University. Following graduation, she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. She went on to complete a PGY-2 residency focused in hematology/oncology at Mayo Clinic as well. Following completion of residency, Dr. Barajas moved back to Des Moines and has worked at VA Central Iowa since July 2013 and currently practices in the Hematology/Oncology clinic assisting.

Ashley E. Behrens, Pharm D, BCPS

Dr. Behrens obtained her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from Creighton University in Omaha, NE. Following graduation, she completed a pharmacy practice residency at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, IA. In August 2010, Dr. Behrens transitioned to VA Central Iowa Health Care System and worked in many of the outpatient clinics. She transitioned to Geriatrics/Long Term Care in the Community Living Center (CLC) in June 2011. In December 2011 she received her BCPS certification.

Allison Berkland, Pharm.D, BCACP

Dr. Berkland is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System in Des Moines, IA. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in 2007 and completed an ASHP accredited residency in Pharmacy Practice at the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Missouri. Upon completion of residency training, Dr. Berkland held the positions of Adjunct assistant Professor in Ambulatory Care at Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences where she practiced at Penn Avenue Internal Medicine Clinic. She provided medication therapy management services under a collaborative practice agreement in diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and anticoagulation. At VA Central Iowa Health Care system, she currently practices in the primary care clinics as a Patient Aligned Care Team Pharmacy Specialist for the White and Geriatrics Teams. She provides medication management services for diabetes, hypertension, smoking cessation, and hyperlipidemia. Dr. Berkland is currently a member of the American Association of Diabetes Educators, and the Iowa Pharmacy Association.

Amy Francis, Pharm.D, BCPS

Dr. Francis is the clinical pharmacy specialist in anticoagulation at VA Central Iowa Health Care System. She performs both clinical and administrative activities in the Anticoagulation Clinic. She is the preceptor for the anticoagulation core rotation and assists with preceptor responsibilities of fourth year pharmacy students. She received her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from Drake University in Des Moines, IA. She received her board certification in pharmacotherapy in 2011.

Ashley Haake, PharmD, BCPS

Dr. Haake earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa in 2011. In 2013 she completed a geriatrics focused residency with the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. Dr. Haake is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist who is an acute care clinical pharmacist at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. She performs daily medication assessments and works closely with the interdisciplinary team members to provide care to acute care patients including critical care and surgery patients. She is a member of the Iowa Pharmacy Association, American Society of Health System Pharmacists, and American Pharmacists Association.

Noelle Johnson, PharmD, BCACP

Dr. Johnson is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. She currently works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Interdisciplinary Pain Management Clinic as well as the Patient Aligned Care Team specializing in pain management, diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, tobacco cessation, and anticoagulation. Dr. Johnson earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa in 2007 and completed an ASHP accredited Ambulatory Care Residency at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, OH in 2008. Dr. Johnson obtained her Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy (CGP) in 2010. In 2011 she received her Anticoagulation Certificate and became a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist in 2012. She is the facility co-lead for the Opioid Safety Initiative and serves on several VA Central Iowa committees. Dr. Johnson is a member of the Iowa Pharmacy Association, American Pharmacy Association, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

Ashley Jones, Pharm.D., BCPP, CGP

Dr. Jones is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Mental Health at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. She works part-time in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic and part-time with the Primary Care Behavioral Health Program providing psychiatric medication therapy management to patients with a variety of mental health conditions. Dr. Jones received her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Florida A&M University in 2011. Following graduation, she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Orlando VA Medical Center and a PGY-2 Residency in Psychiatry at the North Florida/South Georgia VA in Gainesville, FL. Dr. Jones is a member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) and the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP). She is a Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist and Certified Geriatric Pharmacist. She has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Mental Health with the VA Central Iowa Health Care System since August of 2013.

Karmen Jorgensen, Pharm.D, BCPS, BCACP

Dr. Jorgensen is a clinical pharmacy specialist at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. Dr. Jorgensen received her Bachelors of Science from Iowa State University in 2002 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University in 2006. She has a background in secondary science education and taught middle and high school prior to completing her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed a Specialty Residency in Primary Care at the Iowa City VA Medical Center in 2007. Currently Dr. Jorgensen is credentialed to provide medication therapy management in the fields of diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and tobacco cessation. She is a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP) and a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS). Dr. Jorgensen is currently a member of the Iowa Pharmacy Association and a member of the VA Clinical Training Charter for Tobacco Cessation.

Linley Mild, PharmD, BCPS

Dr. Mild earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV, in 2013. Following graduation, she completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. After residency, she continued her career at the Central Iowa VA as an outpatient clinical pharmacist. Her primary areas of practice include operational pharmacy processes and formulary management. Dr. Mild is also a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist.

Darshan Patel, PharmD

Dr. Patel earned his Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from Midwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. He is currently employed as a clinical pharmacist with the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. He has worked in outpatient clinics and the anticoagulation clinic at the VA and currently works as a clinical pharmacist in acute care.

Elizabeth Paterson, PharmD, BCACP

Dr. Paterson earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in Iowa City, Iowa. Following graduation, she completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. In July 2013, she continued her career at the Central Iowa VA as an outpatient clinical pharmacist working in the primary care clinics, pharmacy anticoagulation clinic, and Community Living Center (CLC). She accepted her current position as a Patient-Aligned Care Team (PACT) clinical pharmacy specialist in primary care in October of 2013. In her current role, she provides medication therapy management services focusing on diabetes, dyslipidemia, smoking cessation, hypertension, and anticoagulation management. She is a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP).

Jenny Phabmixay, PharmD, BCPS

Dr. Phabmixay is the PGY1 pharmacy residency program director and program manager for pharmacoeconomics at VA Central Iowa Health Care System. In her current role with pharmacoeconomics, she coordinates a variety of cost avoidance, cost savings and safety initiatives for the pharmacy department. In addition to serving as residency program director, she is a preceptor for the practice management learning experience. She received her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree at Drake University in Des Moines, IA. She completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, IA. She received her board certification in pharmacotherapy in 2008. She is a past president of the Central Iowa Pharmacy Association (CIPA) and is a member of the Iowa Pharmacy Association.

Kim Redeker, PharmD, BCACP

Dr. Redeker earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from Drake University in Des Moines, IA in 2012. Following graduation, she completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency with the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in Grand Island, NE. After residency, she joined the staff at the Central Iowa VA as an outpatient clinical pharmacist. Her current areas of practice include anticoagulation, formulary management, and general outpatient pharmacy responsibilities. She received her board certification in ambulatory care in 2015.

Sarah Schultz, Pharm.D. BCNSP

Dr. Schultz obtained her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD in 2006. Following graduation, she completed a PGY-1 residency through the University of Iowa in Sioux City, IA. This included outpatient experience at the Siouxland Medical Education Foundation outpatient clinic and acute care experience at both St. Luke's hospital and Mercy hospital Sioux City, IA. Currently, her main areas of practice include critical care, general surgery, general medicine, and nutrition support. She works closely with acute care interdisciplinary teams, attending daily rounds, doing medication assessments, and providing discharge counseling.

Dr. Schultz obtained certification as a Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacist (BCNSP) in December 2012. She currently is an active member of the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN).

Ashley G. Smith, Pharm D, BCPP

Dr. Smith is a clinical pharmacy specialist in outpatient mental health at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. She obtained her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from The University of Louisiana at Monroe in 2008. She completed a pharmacy practice residency at the Salem VA Medical Center in Salem, Virginia, followed by a psychiatric pharmacy residency with The University of Texas at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. Prior to joining the staff at Central Iowa, Dr. Smith worked in long term care at the San Antonio State Supported Living Center followed by providing treatment in Mental Health Outpatient Services at the South Texas VA. She is a member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

David Steim, BS Pharmacy & Health Sciences

Mr. Steim, RPh, is the Associate Chief of Pharmacy at VA Central Iowa Healthcare System. He received his BS degree in Pharmacy & Health Sciences from Drake University. In his current role, he is responsible for oversight of pharmacy distributive and clinical services, pharmacy policies and procedures, regulatory compliance, budgetary and financial management, informatics program management, and quality management/quality improvement initiatives. Previous experience includes hospital-based clinical pharmacy practice with an emphasis in acute care, critical care, oncology and geriatrics.